

3 FSO's Face Probe

By Peter Edson



THREE more of the State Department's wartime China hands are to be investigated by the Senate Internal Security sub-committee, says its chief counsel, Judge Robert Morris.

Two of these foreign service officers have been stationed in the Middle East, which is the new critical area in the U. S. effort to hold the line against communism. And all three of the FSO's held important wartime military advisory posts.

John K. Emerson will be the first to testify here in Washington, probably next week. Until recently he was counsellor of embassy at Beirut, Lebanon. He has been at home in Colorado on leave, pending reassignment to Paris.

The other two are Robert C. Strong, now counsellor of embassy at Damascus, Syria, and Raymond P. Ludden, now on duty in the State Department personnel office here in Washington.

The Emerson case is of interest principally because he told his State Department superiors several years ago that he was wrong on some of his wartime views about China. Since then he has been given complete clearance and responsible jobs.

Now 49, Mr. Emerson joined the State Department in 1935 after graduation from Georgetown Foreign Service School.

He was on wartime duty at U. S. fleet command in chief's headquarters in the Pacific. For six months after the end of the war he was political adviser to Gen. Douglas MacArthur in Tokio.

Recalled to Washington, he served as head of the Japanese affairs office. Then he was assigned to Moscow and later to the National War College. He was counsellor of embassy at Karachi, Pakistan, before being sent to Beirut.

THE name of Robert C. Strong was first brought before the Senate Security sub-committee last November. Re-

tired Admiral Charles Maynard Cooke, wartime chief of staff to Admiral Ernest J. King, told the committee that Mr. Strong was responsible for reports that Formosa would fall into Chinese communist hands within two weeks after Chiang Kai-shek fled from the mainland in the fall of 1949.

Admiral Cooke declared that Mr. Strong, as U. S. charge d'affaires on Formosa at the time, "did not welcome" military intelligence officers from Pacific headquarters who were trying to build up Chiang Kai-shek forces to hold Formosa against the Reds. This is a new charge on State Department records. Mr. Strong has never been given opportunity to answer it publicly.

Now 43, Mr. Strong became an FSO in 1939. He served in Frankfurt, Prague, Durban and Sofia before being assigned as political adviser to the Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean in 1944. In 1946 he was detailed to the Naval War College.

He was then made U. S. consul at Tsinngao, China, first secretary at Canton, on special duty in Chungking, consul and first secretary at Taipei, Formosa, until 1950.

Mr. Strong was recalled to Washington as special assistant to the director of China affairs. He was on the top-level policy planning staff from 1953 till assigned to Damascus in '54.

RAY LUDDEN, 46, has been in Foreign Service since 1931.

During the war he was on the staff of the commanding general, China-Burma-India theater. Later he was Army observer at communist headquarters in Yenai, China. In 1945 he was graduated from Army-Navy staff college, a top-secret school.

Mr. Ludden was in Canton till Chiang Kai-shek was driven out in 1949. Then he served in U. S. embassies at Dublin, Brussels, Paris and Stockholm. He contracted tuberculosis overseas and was on sick leave in Florida till reassigned to Washington. He will be eligible for retirement in a few years.

Charges against Mr. Ludden are vague.